

now—but it is a small business that is allowing him to live his dreams and to help others live theirs, too. It is a story countless other Americans know all too well and one we should do everything to encourage. Yet, while Chase has achieved success thanks to trade, he knows there is still a lot more we should be doing if the aim is to help businesses grow, help his employees earn more, and help other Kentuckians live their dreams too.

Here is what Chase said yesterday:

As our business has grown internationally, we have been confronted with barriers that compromise global markets. It was not long after sending our first shipment overseas that we realized trade rules were outdated for our business. Most of the agreements and rules were written before small businesses like ours were able to fully utilize the internet to exploit the global market. Trade agreements offer the best chance to lower barriers and increase market access for small companies like mine. We see a bright future for . . . companies like ours in the export market but we need new trade deals to get there.

And this, Mr. President, is a business with three employees that is exporting products.

So here was Chase's solution: "Trade Promotion Authority is the first step towards modernizing trade agreements," he said, "and I encourage Congress to pass TPA as soon as possible."

Entrepreneurs such as Chase know that the United States does not have many trade barriers, but other countries do. They know that many of these barriers are extremely unfair to American workers and American products. They know that passing trade promotion authority is the way to address such an unfair situation.

Our friends on the far left may try to cynically spin their war against the future of something other than what it truly is, but we all know better. It is no wonder President Obama has called them "wrong" and suggested that they make stuff up. What happens if the far left actually succeeds in its apparent quest to retain foreign tariffs that unfairly impact American workers and their paychecks? How is that good for us?

It would mean lost opportunities for American risk takers such as Chase and the employees who entrepreneurs such as him care about. It would mean lost opportunities for American manufacturers, lost opportunities for Kentucky farmers, and lost opportunities for more jobs, better wages, and a growing economy that can lift everyone up.

Jobs and a better economy are the kinds of things I am going to continue to fight for. I think the legislation before us represents a great opportunity to do so. President Obama agrees, as well. So I am going to keep working to get votes on amendments—both Republican and Democrat amendments.

There have been objections from the other side of the aisle. I would remind our colleagues that even with my strong support, the Senate cannot have

a robust amendment process if every single amendment offered by Democrats or Republicans is objected to by our friends on the other side.

Our bill managers, Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN, are working hard. We hope to get past these objections so that more amendments can be considered. But we will need cooperation. The Senate cannot vote on amendments that are being prevented.

We hope to see more of that cooperation so we can pass good, fair, and enforceable trade legislation that will benefit our country and so many of the people we represent.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ISSUES FACING THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at the end of this month, Republicans will have been in charge of the Senate for almost half a year. After all of this time, what have they done to address issues facing the middle class? Zero.

Let's take a quick look at what the Republican leadership has achieved this year. The Keystone Pipeline legislation took a month, a bill that was nothing more than a favor for billionaires and special interests. It would allow foreign oil to be imported into the United States to be shipped to foreign countries. It has spent almost another month on the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security—the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security—during a time when ISIS is raging and all the other problems around the world, and they—the Republicans—want to shut down the Federal Government as it relates to Homeland Security.

We spent 3 weeks on a senseless delay over funding for victims of human trafficking, over an abortion issue that had nothing to do with human trafficking. I would respond to my friend, the majority leader, we would have passed this last Congress, except that they objected to it—short memory, I think.

Now, here we are spending the last week considering trade legislation that has done nothing—nothing, not a single thing—to help working middle-class Americans. In fact, it causes huge job losses. As Einstein said, if you keep doing the same thing over and over again and you expect a different result, that is the definition of insanity.

We can look at these trade bills over the years. Every one of them, without exception, causes job losses to American workers, millions of job losses. Yet they are going to try the same thing again and hope for a different result. That is insanity.

If the Senate is not actively advocating for the well-being of middle-class Americans, we are wasting our

time. When the Republicans took over the Senate, the majority leader promised to make the needs of Americans a priority. Here is what he said last November: "Under a new majority, our focus would be on passing legislation that improves the economy, that makes it easier for Americans to find jobs, and that helps restore Americans' confidence in their country and their government."

Why then have we not moved toward legislation that makes it easier for Americans to find jobs or reforms that help us restore Americans' confidence in their government?

A few months after November—actually the beginning of this year—the majority leader reiterated a call for commonsense legislation that puts the middle class first. He said: "Let's pass legislation that focuses on jobs and the real concerns of the middle class."

But, again, what have the Senate Republicans done? They have stopped any effort made to help the middle class, whether it is minimum wage, equal pay for men and women, student debt, and on and on with things that would help the middle class. They have been ignored. We should be focusing on making it easier for Americans to find jobs, addressing the needs of the middle class and restoring Americans' faith in our government.

It is not enough for the majority leader to mouth these words that he supports jobs. His agenda must reflect it, as well. But it does not. It does not do anything to help job creation. If we want to create jobs, why don't we do something with infrastructure, the surface transportation bill?

To his credit, the Presiding Officer has an idea regarding how that should be paid for. I have worked with him and, whether his idea and my idea are perfect, at least it is an effort to figure out some way to do something about jobs. Jobs—we have to do something about surface transportation. Some 50 percent of America's roads are in disrepair, and 64,000 bridges are structurally deficient. Our railroad systems are outdated, and we know that recently from the headlines we have seen with that devastating accident in Pennsylvania. Instead of working with Democrats to provide adequate, long-term investment into our country's surface transportation, Republicans are advocating for short-term fix after short-term fix.

Repairing our Nation's roads and bridges through long-term investments could provide thousands of jobs for Americans. If the Republican leader truly has the interests of the middle class at heart, he should be leading the charge for these investments, but he is leading the charge against them.

Today, the Senate will resume consideration of the trade legislation. Because of Senate Democrats, that trade legislation includes vital programs that help America's workers retrain and find new employment if they lose their jobs because of foreign trade. And